

MARKED-UP VERSION OF THE AMENDED CLAIMS

(Version with Markings to Show Changes Made)

2. (new) A protective covering for protecting operative dental instruments comprising

an end section having more or less the shape of a semi-sphere having a first diameter and having an end circle of the semi-sphere;

a first tubular section having a first end adjoining the end section and having substantially the first diameter and having a second end;

a frustro-conical section having a first end having the first diameter and adjoining the second end of the first tubular section and having a second end exhibiting a second diameter;

a second tubular section having a first end adjoining the second end of the frustro-conical section and having substantially the second diameter and having a second end;

a first wing having a connecting edge attached to the second end of the second tubular section over an angle of not more than 180 degrees;

a second wing having a connecting edge attached to the second end of the second tubular section over an angle of not more than 180 degrees and wherein the first wing is disposed opposite to the second wing; and wherein recited elements are made of a thermoshrinkable material.

3. (new) A protective covering for protecting operative dental instruments comprising

a sheet of thermoshrinkable material including

an end sheet having more or less the shape of a semi-circle having a first diameter and having an end diameter;

a first rectangular sheet having a first short edge adjoining the end diameter and having a second short edge;

a trapezoidal sheet having a narrow top having a length equal to the second short edge and adjoining the second short edge of the first rectangular sheet and having a wider bottom;

a second rectangular sheet having a first short edge adjoining the wider bottom of the trapezoidal sheet and having a second short edge;

a first wing sheet having a connecting edge attached to the second short edge of the second rectangular sheet;

an opposing sheet of thermoshrinkable material including

an opposing end sheet having more or less the shape of a semi-circle having the first diameter and having the opposing end diameter;

an opposing first rectangular sheet having an opposing first short edge adjoining the opposing end diameter and having an opposing second short edge;

an opposing trapezoidal sheet having an opposing narrow top having a length equal to the opposing second short edge and adjoining the opposing second short edge of the opposing first rectangular sheet and having an opposing wider bottom;

an opposing second rectangular sheet having an opposing first short edge adjoining the opposing wider bottom of the opposing trapezoidal sheet and having an opposing second short edge;

an opposing wing sheet having an opposing connecting edge attached to the opposing second short edge of the opposing second rectangular sheet;

and wherein the first sheet is disposed opposite to the opposite sheet and wherein free edges of the end sheet, of the first rectangular sheet, of the trapezoidal sheet, and of the second rectangular sheet are joined sealingly to respective and corresponding free edges of the opposing end sheet, of the opposing first rectangular sheet, of the opposing trapezoidal sheet, and of the opposing second rectangular sheet.

4. (new) The protective covering for protecting operative dental instruments

according to claim 3 further comprising

an axis defined by the wing and the opposing wing.

5. (new) The protective covering for protecting operative dental instruments

according to claim 3 wherein the wing and the opposing wing create the possibility after operation of easy removal of the protective covering from an instrument surface by wrapping a possibly infected surface into the interior of a sleeve.

6. (new) A method of covering a dental instrument with a protective covering comprising the following steps:

employing a protective covering having

a first tubular section with a closed end and an open end;

an expanding tubular section having a first narrow end adjoining the open end of the first tubular section and having a second wider end;

a second tubular section having a first end adjoining the wider end and having a second end;

a first wing part attached to the second end of the second tubular section;

a second wing part attached to the second end of the second tubular section and disposed opposite to the first wing part;

placing a dental instrument into the protective covering;

pulling the wing parts backward toward the closed end; and

removing the dental instrument from the protective covering.

7. (new) The method of covering a dental instrument according to claim 6 further comprising:

shrinking the protective covering onto the dental instrument.